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SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

REPORT ON THE CONSULTATIONS WITH UNITED STATES AND CANADIAN ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENTS AND OTHER NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED, HELD AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK, ON 29 AND 30 JUNE 1992

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INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 46/79 B of 13 December 1991, the General Assembly authorized the Special Committee against Apartheid, in accordance with its mandate as the focal point for the international campaign against apartheid, to continue mobilizing international action through, inter alia, liaison and consultations with Governments, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and relevant groups and individuals, in support of the political process towards the establishment of a non-racial, democratic South Africa.

2. In accordance with these provisions, the Special Committee included in its programme of work for 1992 a one and a half day session of consultations in New York on 29 and 30 June 1992 with United States and Canadian anti-apartheid movements and NGOs concerned.

3. Its objectives were:

(a) To afford anti-apartheid movements and other NGOs concerned in North America an opportunity to develop a new approach to their work during the transitional period and beyond;

(b) To identify relevant issues and programmes of action, inter alia, to promote the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on South Africa, to foster constitutional change, strengthen the civil society in South Africa and to address critical socio-economic inequities resulting from decades of apartheid.

I. AGENDA AND PROCEDURE

4. These consultations were opened on 29 June 1992 and chaired by Mr. Jayaraj Acharya (Nepal), Acting Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid. Following the opening statement, the work of the consultations were conducted in informal discussion sessions.

5. Under the item on "Recent developments in South Africa and the international response", the representatives of the national liberation movements of South Africa, Mr. Kingsley Makhubela of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and Mr. S. E. M. Pheko of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) made introductory statements.

6. Under the item on "Prospects for democratic change in South Africa: role of South Africans and North-American anti-apartheid movements and other NGOs", presentations were made by Mr. Allen Cook of the Canada-South Africa Cooperation; Mr. Jim Cason of the American Committee on Africa and Ms. Imani Countess of the Washington Office on Africa.

7. With regard to "Elements of a programme of action", presentations for this topic were made by Mr. James Baker, representative of the Department for Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat; Ms. Eve Thomson of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights; Mr. Nesbit Crutchfield of the Bay Area Anti-Apartheid Network; and Ms. Nancy Muirhead of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

8. At the end of the deliberations, the Chairman made concluding remarks that, inter alia, summarized views expressed during the proceedings (see annex I to the present report).

II. PARTICIPANTS

9. The Special Committee against Apartheid was represented by its Acting Chairman, Mr. Jayaraj Acharya (Nepal) and by Mr. S. K. Goel (India).

10. Other participants included representatives of ANC and PAC, a representative of the Department for Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat as well as representatives of 20 anti-apartheid movements, non-governmental organizations and foundations from North America (see annex II to the present report).

III. DOCUMENTATION

11. A background paper containing the concluding remarks made by the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid at the closing session of the Seminar on "South Africa's Socio-Economic Problems: Future Role of the United Nations in Helping Address Them" was circulated for the consultations (see annex I to the present report).

IV. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

12. Because participants came from two diverse groups representing those engaged in promoting anti-apartheid campaigns and those involved in promoting and providing assistance to disadvantaged South Africans, two distinct trends emerged from the discussions, namely, the need to maintain some form of pressure on the South African Government and the need to provide humanitarian assistance to the victims of apartheid.

A. Pressure

13. While acknowledging the positive changes that had taken place in South Africa since 1990, participants agreed that since agreement on transitional measures and, in particular, on the establishment of an interim government had not yet been reached, it was imperative for the international community to maintain some form of pressure against the South African Government. In that

connection, they recommended the maintenance of those measures that had not yet been lifted, such as financial sanctions and the arms and oil embargoes.

14. Participants expressed grave concern over the escalating wave of violence and, in particular, the role of the security forces in fomenting and/or perpetrating the violence. Several suggestions were made with regard to measures that could be taken by the international community to assist in stopping the violence. The United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations such as the European Community and the Commonwealth were called upon to send monitors to South Africa to monitor the situation.

15. With regard to action by NGOs, the following suggestions were made, that NGOs should: persuade their Governments to put pressure on the South African Government to stop the violence; in the light of the escalating violence and the impasse in the negotiation process, review the lifting of the cultural and sports boycotts; endorse demands of the anti-apartheid forces for the constituent assembly; initiate public campaigns aimed at dispelling the myth that apartheid was over; organize mass demonstrations and protest against the ongoing violence; initiate public campaigns to send letters to President de Klerk demanding that he stop the violence and sanction those security forces and police implicated in violent acts against the public; and organize mass demonstrations in support of the action campaigns planned for 3 to 9 August by the anti-apartheid forces in South Africa.

16. United States NGOs were asked to persuade their local leaders to support legislation 301 under consideration in the United States Congress and requiring the United States Government, inter alia, to denounce publicly the ongoing violence in South Africa. Some participants suggested that the United States Government consider reinstating sanctions against South Africa. In addition, participants agreed on the need for NGOs to monitor the implementation of the remaining sanctions against South Africa.

B. Humanitarian assistance

17. Participants agreed that there was a need to increase and expand humanitarian assistance to the disadvantaged sections of the South African population, in particular, the rural population. Until an interim Government was in place, it was generally agreed that such assistance should be channeled mainly through community-based NGOs in South Africa. With regard to how best to extend that assistance, it was proposed that American and Canadian NGOs assist in building the capacity of South African NGOs; assist local projects to switch from resistance mode to development mode; consult with South African community leaders before launching the development projects; promote the twinning of cities, townships and labour unions between North Americans and South Africans; and lobby North American companies to provide humanitarian assistance to the victims of apartheid.

18. Despite those general agreements, there were several areas of concern that distinguished the two groups from each other. Some organizations

involved in anti-apartheid campaigns felt that it was premature for NGOs to engage in development projects in South Africa. They also pointed out that NGOs did not have funds for such projects. Concern was also expressed on the impact of assistance being currently extended to South Africa. It was feared that some organizations and agencies such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) might impose on South Africa development models that would worsen the existing socio-economic imbalances. In that connection, it was suggested that NGOs monitor what kind of assistance was being given to South Africa and how that assistance was applied to ensure that it did not hurt the already disadvantaged sectors of the population.

19. In order to ensure maximum and effective assistance, participants agreed on the need for coordination and networking among NGOs. It was suggested that NGOs make it a practice to exchange information on their activities and on what was going on in South Africa as well as to desist from engaging in unnecessary competition among themselves as this tended to reduce their effectiveness. Also, NGOs were urged to strive to promote unity among the victims of apartheid.

Annex I

CONCLUDING REMARKS BY H.E. MR. JAYARAJ ACHARYA (NEPAL), ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

We have now come to the end of our consultations, which have been, by most accounts, both timely and fruitful.

We have been very priviledged to have had so many prominent leaders and representatives of major anti-apartheid movements, church and labour organizations, lawyers' associations and foundations at this meeting, which assumed a greater urgency and significance in the wake of the Boitopong massacre.

The exchange of information and views that you have had with the Special Committee against Apartheid and among yourselves in the past day and half, the suggestions and proposals for action that you have made for individual and collective action, will no doubt have a positive impact on our respective programmes of work.

Our deliberations have also clearly demonstrated the need for North American anti-apartheid movements, which have already given much of themselves, to regroup and continue to mobilize their constituencies so as to dispel the erroneous notion that apartheid is dead and to prod their Governments into unwavering and effective support for the total and peaceful elimination of apartheid, as described in the United Nations Declaration on South Africa adopted by consensus by the General Assembly in December 1989.

The Declaration provides guidelines and principles for the negotiated settlement of the conflict in South Africa that are just as valid today as when they were adopted in 1989.

The continued politically motivated violence in South Africa with the reported alarming involvement of elements of the police and security forces and their surrogates, the stalled negotiation process, the test of wills engaged among various parties and organizations within the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) and outside, pose a new challenge to the international community that must not remain unanswered.

As several participants observed, it is encouraging that the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the European Community, the Commonwealth and the United Nations are now looking into ways and means of addressing the critical and dramatic political developments confronting South Africa today.

To many participants, addressing critical political issues that stand in the way of a negotiated settlement in the near future remains an urgent task for all anti-apartheid forces inside South Africa and outside. But they equally agree that the need to redress the huge socio-economic imbalances resulting from decades of apartheid should not be lost sight of, as it will

determine ultimately whether the experiment of a non-racial and democratic South Africa will succeed or not.

In this connection, it was further emphasized that unity of purpose and unity in action was essential in these confusing and troubling times.

Based on its assessment of the complexities of the South African realities, the Special Committee against Apartheid has always cautioned against hasty conclusions about the irreversible character of political change in South Africa. It has accordingly advocated a two-track policy of pressure on the South African authorities and humanitarian, legal, educational, relief and other forms of assistance to victims and opponents of apartheid.

This policy is once more vindicated.

In conclusion, I would like, on behalf of the Special Committee against Apartheid, to pay tribute to the United States and Canadian anti-apartheid movements for their dedication and relentless campaigns to mobilize their constituencies and prod their Governments in support of the total elimination of apartheid policies and practices. Without their sustained and remarkable effort at the local, State and federal levels, much of what has been achieved in the international campaign against apartheid would not have been possible.

I would like also to thank the private foundations that have joined us for their valuable contributions to our deliberations and to their commitment in addressing some of the huge socio-economic disparities resulting from decades of apartheid, in strengthening civil society in South Africa, in promoting a culture of human rights and in sponsoring important projects in the field of public administration, education, housing and public health in South Africa. We hope, when the time comes, possibly with the establishment of an interim Government, that they will assist in inducing the private sector to promote community development in South Africa as well as public interest and donor funding on South Africa-related matters.

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. UNITED NATIONS

1.	Acting Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid	H.E. Mr. Jayaraj ACHARYA (Nepal)
2.	Member of the Special Committee against Apartheid	Mr. S. K. GOEL (India)
3.	United Nations Centre against Apartheid	Mr. N. A. ABROUS, Asistant Director

B. LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

4.	African National Congress of South Africa (ANC)	Mr. Kingsley MAKHUBEKA, Deputy Representative to the United Nations
5.	Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC)	Mr. S. E. M. PHEKO, Representative to the United Nations

C. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

6.	American Association of Jurists, New York	Ms. Deborah A. JACKSON, Vice-President
7.	American Committee on Africa, New York	Mr. Jim CASON, Associate Director Mr. Adotei AKWEI, Research Director Mr. David SCOTT, Vice President
8.	American Friends Service Committee, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Mr. Jerry HERMAN, Chairman
9.	American-South African Peoples' Friendship (ASAPFA)	Mr. B. JORDAN
10.	Bay Area Anti-Apartheid Network, Oakland, California	Mr. Nesbit CRUTCHFIELD, Chairperson Ms. Myesha JENKINS
11.	Canada-South Africa Cooperation, Ottawa, Canada	Mr. Allen COOK, Executive Director

12.	Committee against Racism, Calgary, Alberta	Rev. George MILLARD, Chairperson
13.	Educators against Apartheid and Racism, Teaneck, New Jersey	Ms. Paula BOWER, Chairperson
14.	Ford Foundation, New York	Mr. Elliot DAWES, Consultant Ms. Barbara MURPHY-WARRINGTON, Legal Department
15.	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, New York	Ms. Pia BUNGARTEN, Coordinator
16.	Friedrich Naumann Stiftung, New York	Ms. Mirtille ROMEGIALLI, Head of Office
17.	Get Ahead Foundation USA, Washington, D.C.	Mr. Wayne FREDERICKS, Secretary Mr. Joseph MCMAHON, Exec. Director
18.	Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, New York	Ms. Donna KATZIN, Executive Director
19.	Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (SA), Washington, D.C.	Ms. Eve THOMSON, Member
20.	Manitoba Coalition against Racism and Apartheid, Winnipeg, Manitoba	Mr. Helmut-Harry LOEWEN, Chairperson
21.	National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, African Office, New York	Mr. Willis LOGAN, Africa Office
22.	Rockefeller Brothers Fund, New York	Ms. Nancy L. MUIRHEAD
23.	Task Forces on Churches and Corporate Responsibility, Toronto, Ontario	Ms. Renate PRATT, Director
24.	Washington Office on Africa, Washington, D.C.	Ms. Imani COUNTESS, Acting Director
25.	World Council of Churches, New York	Mr. Donald BLACK, Interim Director

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